

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name. I believe I am an original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

PROCESS FOR PRODUCING NIOBIUM AND TANTALUM COMPOUNDS

| the application of which: | <u>x</u> | is attached hereto. was filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on October 12, 1995 and assigned Serial Number 08/542,286 | |
|---------------------------|----------|--|------------------|
| | | and was amended on was described and claimed | (if applicable). |
| | | filed on | and amended |
| | | under PCT Article 19 on | (if applicable). |

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below, or of any PCT International application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below, and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT International application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

| Country | Application Number | Filing Date (Day/Month/Year) | Priority Claimed Under 35 USC §119 |
|---------|--------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | | | Yes No |
| | | | Yes No |
| | | | Yes No |

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) listed below or any PCT International application(s) designating the United States of America listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION(S)

| Application Serial Number | U.S. Filing Date (day/month/year) | Status (patented, pending or abandoned) |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| | | |
| | | |

And I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agents(s), with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: Lawrence A. Chaletsky (Ref. No. 24,558); Martha A. Finnegan (Reg. No. 31,453); Michelle B. Lando (Reg. No. 33,941); Charles W. Calkins (Reg. No. 31,814); John M. Harrington (Reg. No. 25,592); and Charles Y. Lackey (Reg. No. 22,707).

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belief are believed to be true; and made are punishable by fine or important, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the united States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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